GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:116
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2007
IMPORT OF PULSES
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge gap between demand and supply of pulses in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has decided to import pulses to improve its availability and check prices;

(d) if so, the quantum and price of pulses imported by various agencies during the last one year and thereafter till date, agency-wise;

(e) the total expenditure incurred on the said imports;

(f) the comparative figures of the prices fixed for imported pulses and those prevalent in domestic market; and

(g) the reasons for failure to check price of pulses despite imports?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (g): A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 116 FOR 20/08/2007 REGARDING IMPORT OF PULSES

(a) & (b): Area under pulses crop increased from 22.39 million hectares in 2005-06 to 23.76 million hectares in 2006-07. However, the area sown under kharif crops this year (2007-08) has come down to 4.01 million hectares in comparison to last year (4.79 million hectares). The Fourth Advance Estimates has put the production of pulses for 2006-07 at 14.23 million tonnes. The estimated demand for pulses in 2006-07 was between 16.0-16.5 million tonnes. Production and imports of pulses for the last 6 years are given below:

(million tonnes)

Year	Production	Import
2001-02	13.37	2.21
2002-03	11.13	1.99
2003-04	14.91	1.72
2004-05	13.13	1.30
2005-06	13.39	1.70
2006-07	14.23	2.25

Planning Commission's Working Group for 11th Five Year Plan has projected production of pulses for 2007-08 at 14.03 million tonnes with a demand gap of 2.74 million tonnes.

(c) : Yes Sir. In order to augment availability of pulses in the domestic market, private traders were allowed to import pulses at zero duty and NAFED imported 49,300 tonnes of pulses during 2006-07. Government have authorized the STC, MMTC and PEC besides NAFED to import 1.5 million tonnes of pulses during 2007-08. The NCCF has also been authorized to import 1.5 lakh tonnes of moong, urad and tur during 2007-08.

(d) : The quantum and rate of pulses imported by various agencies during the last one year and thereafter till 6.8.07, agency- wise is given below:

Organisation	Variety of pulses imported	Qty	Purchase price (US $ PMT)

PEC Ltd.	Urad	6870	570-659	
	Moong	1907	630	
	Tur		6479	384-454
	Yellowpeas	-	-	
	Chick peas	-	-	
	Red Lentils	-	-	
TOTAL (PEC)			15256	
MMTC Ltd	Urad	3000	586	
	Moong	980	638.5	
	Tur	19424	412-457	
	Masoor	2451	569.85-576.20	
	Dunpeas	1959	378-380	
	Yellow peas	51230	344-365	
	Desi Chana	-	-	
TOTAL (MMTC)			79044	
NAFED	Urad	38041	565-670	
	Moong	5219	630	
	Tur		5221	532
	Yellowpeas	-		
TOTAL (NAFED)			48481	
STC	Urad	30507	634.5	
	Yellowpeas	67324	358.95-365	
	Tur		980	563.45
	Moong	2760	703.69	
TOTAL(STC)			101571	
GRAND TOTAL		243175		

(e) : The total expenditure incurred on the said imports is about Rs. 462 lakhs (provisional).

(f) : The imported pulses are being sold in the market through open tender. Prices of pulses including imported and or indigenous are differ for each variety and depend on quality besides market forces like demand and supply that are prevailing in the market at a particular time.

The comparative figures of the prices fixed for imported pulses and those prevalent in domestic market is subject to variability on account of the dynamic nature of price behaviour in the international and domestic markets. The average difference in international and domestic prices is indicated below:

(1) Urad:- Rs. 150-400 per qtl higher than the price of imported pulses depending upon the quality.

(2) Moong:- Rs. 70-300 per qtl higher than the price of imported pulses depending upon the quality.

(3) Arhar:- Rs. 50-300 per qtl lower than the price of imported pulses depending upon the quality.

(4) Yellow Peas:- US$ 10-20 (about Rs. 400-800) per MT lower than the price of imported pulses depending upon the quality.

(g) : The basic reason for rise in prices of pulses is a mismatch in the demand and supply of most pulses. In addition, there has been a steady escalation in global prices of pulses and of other commodities. Availability of surplus pulses in the global market is also limited and the uncertainty in timely supply also attributes to rise in prices of pulses in the domestic market.

Imports have augmented the domestic availability of pulses. This has, to some extent, arrested the rising trend in prices of pulses. It has also led to relative stability in the prices of pulses over the past few months.